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LB 1401

question of what is our responsibility to ensure that there is some fairly uniform reaction and claims basis for these various factors in the state aid formula. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. On the motion to return, Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, I find this discussion rather interesting. I noticed that OPS is looking at whether they should or shouldn't sue the state because of their number of students. If you'll look on the handout that Senator Beutler gave us, the very first page, third from the bottom is Omaha. And this...the number of limited English proficiency students has increased, not because I think they are doctoring their books as might be surmised by some of the other districts, but because we have had an increase in students who do have English as a second language. If it were just Spanish, it might be manageable and we might be able to find teachers, but it's Sudanese and it's Vietnamese and it's a variety of languages. And trying to find teachers that can speak with these students is very difficult. And therefore, they are running short of money because they are spending so much money on English as a second language students. So, I would look forward, as an Education Committee member, to seeing what we find out when we start studying this issue; and appreciate Senator Beutler's effort at pointing out some inequities that are happening and some problems that may be out there that we weren't prepared to realize when we passed LB 806. And any time that I have left, I would give to Senator Bohlke. Mr. President, any time I would have left, I would give to Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bohlke, about two and a half minutes.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I was busy here at the desk and didn't get to hear all of Senator Beutler's remarks, but he and I had had a conversation before, and so I anticipated what his comments would be. Certainly, we had a discussion with regard to limited English proficiency. We have seen the impact that's had on schools. I think recognizing